

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /051 W

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R 270855Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9228

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, TW, CH

SUBJECT: NEW TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR ROC PASSPORTS TO THAILAND

REF: (A) TAIPEI 1210 (B) BANGKOK 2166

1. A THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 28, GROC PASSPORT HOLDERS WISHING TO TRAVEL TO THAILAND MUST SECURE A NEW TRAVEL DOCUMENT THAT WILL BE USED IN LIEU OF A GROC PASSPORT. THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE ISSUED EITHER IN TAIPEI OR HONG KONG. HOLDERS OF GROC PASSPORTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THAILAND AFTER THIS DATE.

2. TWO WEEKS AGO, PRC FIRST SECRETARY, CHAO LIN TE, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT, AFTER MARCH 25, THE PRC WOULD NOT ISSUE VISAS ON GROC PASSPORTS. HE ADDED THAT THE RTG REACHED THIS DECISION IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY THE OVERSEAS CHINESE PROBLEM IN THAILAND. OVERSEAS CHINESE RESIDING IN THAILAND WILL HAVE THREE OPTIONS: (A) SWITCH TO A PRC PASSPORT; (B) REGISTER AS STATELESS; (C) BECOME A THAI CITIZEN. WHILE THE PRC EMBASSY HAS OPENLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL OVERSEAS CHINESE SELECT ALTERNATIVE (C), THE RTG
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STILL HAS NOT ALTERED ITS POLICY ON NATURALIZATION, WHICH,

IN ADDITION TO HIGH STATUTORY FEES, IS FRAUGHT WITH GRAFT AND CORRUPTION. IT IS REPORTED THAT THE PUBLISHER OF THE BANGKOK CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, HSING HSIEN JIH PAU, HAD TO PAY BAHT 30,000 FOR EACH MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY TO BE NATURALIZED. THE SUCCESS OF THE RTG IN PUTTING OVERSEAS CHINESE IN ONE OF THE THREE CATEGORIES REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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